THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) As envisaged in 'National HIV Testing Policy', the mandatory testing for HIV infection of any population group including jail inmates is not recommended. Mandatory testing is only done for screening of blood (not the donor) to aliminate blood transmissible diseases including HIV/AIDS.

(c) The present document on resting policy for HIV is prepared as per guidelines formulated by WHO and consultation with various experts.

Medical Treatment

3497. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wounded soldiers of the present Government of Afganistan are being sent to India for medical treatment;

(b) whether the medical treatment to majority of these soldiers is being provided in the private hospitals and nursing homes located in various parts of Delhi;

(c) if so, the number of wounded soldiers receiving medical treatment in India;

(d) whether the Government of India is bearing the expenses on medical treatment being given to them;

(e) if so, the total amount borne by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) We have no information in this regard.

(c) to (g) Does not arise.

Minister's Discretionary Grant

3498. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government through the Membars of Parliament to grant financial assistance from Minister's Discretionary Grant to the needy and poor OBC landless families of Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether the Government have provided grants to these applicants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) During 1996-97, 3 applications were received from Members of Parliament recommending financial assistance to 3 patients from Andhra Pradesh. During 1997-98 only one such case was received. These cases could not be considered for want of specific details which are awaited. One case was not covered under the existing policy and hence was not acceeded to.

Mica Welfare Fund

3499. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the income and expenditure of Mica Welfare Fund during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of Mica workers benefited in each region under various welfare measures during the last three years;

(c) the efforts made for improving dwindling Mica Fund during last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to lavy cess on internal consumption of Mica; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) A statement-I showing income and expenditure under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II showing the number of beneficiaries under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund, scheme-wise and region-wise during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) to (e) There has been a steady decline in production of Mica in the recent years primarily on account of falling demand due to development of cheaper substitutes. Imposition of any additional cess or tax could further depress the demand by increasing Mica prices and is therefore not being contemplated

Statement-I

Income and Expenditure for the last three years

(Rs. in thousands)

Year	Income	Expenditure
1994-95	14,892	23,147
1995-96	20,968	22,683
1996-97	20,347	22,346